

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY**

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APPROVED minutes of the 228<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held Thursday, July 27, 2017, Room 1222, AU-Edmonton, Edmonton, AB.

**Present:** Vivian Manasc (Chair), Neil Fassina, Lynn Hamilton, Debby Kronewitt Martin, Shawna Wasylyshyn, and via teleconference Cheryl Hunter Loewen, McDonald Madamombe, Douglas Schindel, Paulette Patry, Derek Briton, Michael Mauws, Jamie Czerwinski and Julian Teterenko

**Governance Staff:** Carol Lund (University Secretary) and Barbara Kowalchuk (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:** Estelle Lo, Rick Harland, John Latremouille, Donna Romyn, Alain May, David Liddell, and via teleconference Gordon Handke, Bober Raja and Margaret Kierylo.

**Absent with Regrets:** Chief Charles Weaselhead and Grant Grams

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M.

#### **1.0 Approval of Agenda**

##### **1.1 Approve Agenda for Meeting 228**

**228-01 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the agenda for Meeting 228 as presented.

**Wasylyshyn/Hamilton**

**Carried**

#### **2.0 Conflict of Interest**

##### **2.1 Conflict of Interest Statement**

Subject to the Conflict of Interest Guidelines set out in the Code of Conduct and Ethics for Members of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University, and the Board of Governors of Athabasca University General By-laws, members were asked to declare any conflict they may have with respect to particular agenda items contained within the meeting agenda.

No conflicts were declared.

#### **3.0 Approval of Minutes**

**228-02 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the minutes of meeting 227 held May 26, 2017, as presented.

**Kronewitt Martin/Madamombe**

**Carried**

#### **4.0 Action Items**

#### **4.1 Approve the 2017-2018 Budget Plan**

**228-03 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the 2017-2018 Budget Plan, as presented.

**Kronewitt Martin/Hamilton**

The President provided an overview of the draft 2017-2018 Budget Plan including context, the budget process, budget strategies, tuition and non-mandatory fees, unencumbered cash, and Third Party Review implementation costs. He further noted that a request for an additional investment of \$6.185M from the Government of Alberta is proposed to implement the recommendations of the Third Party Review Report.

The President noted that Schedule 1B of the budget plan (sensitivity analysis) had been updated, and further that comments received from the Board Finance & Property Committee had been integrated into the draft budget plan being presented. He further noted that the Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) had made a request for current undergraduate international program students be grandfathered with a limit to their tuition increase of 10% and advised that this would not be a material change overall, and would not affect the balanced status of the budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed budget plan including the following:

- Proposed tuition increase for current undergraduate international students and estimated growth in registrations
- Estimated travel expenses for Connections Conference
- Indigenous education and connecting with indigenous colleges
- Variance in GOA base grant as a percentage of revenue vs other Alberta post-secondary institutions
- Projections for Year 2 and Year 3 are based on current state and may see significant changes due to potential financial benefits that may arise from the initiatives implemented out of the Third Party Review
- Effect of increases in fees and tuition as well as reduction in learning resource fee on students
- Cost of incorporating the request of AUSU to grandfather current undergraduate international program students in terms of tuition, limiting their increase to 10%
- Separation of learning resources fee and textbook fee

A friendly amendment was proposed for motion 228-03, to incorporate the grandfathering of current undergraduate international program students with respect to the proposed tuition increase, limiting their increase for the 2017-2018 year to 10%. The friendly amendment was accepted by the mover.

**The Motion 228-03 was restated as follows:**

*That the Board of Governors approves the 2017-2018 Budget Plan as amended.*

**Carried**

**228-04 MOVED** That a request be sent to the Government of Alberta for an additional investment of \$6,185,000 to fund the implementation of the recommendations and directions of the Independent Third Party Review.

**Wasylshyn/Hamilton**

Members discussed the next steps in terms of the implementation of the recommendations and what actions would take place should the request not be granted in its entirety by the government. Discussion ensued regarding the need for clarity with respect to the funding required for Information and Communication Technology and it was noted that the capital plans submitted to the government have provided details in this regard.

**Carried**

#### **4.2 Approve the Comprehensive Institutional Plan 2017-2020**

**228-05 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the Comprehensive Institutional Plan 2017-2020.

**Kronewitt Martin/Hunter Loewen**

The President provided an overview of edits that had been made to the document and noted that it is a prescriptive government document in terms of content.

Discussion ensued with respect to ways that the document might further address the concept of affordability in the future.

**Carried**

#### **5.0 Other Business**

#### **6.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 A.M.